Fitzroy Street Cambridge Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty

Many of these stories were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014. They are supplemented by some selections 'From our Old Files' published in the Cambridge Independent Press and other notes.

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at bit.ly/CambsCollection

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.

I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get in touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the 1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – www.mikepetty.org.uk for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2016

1897

None enjoy the ecstasy of health so much as those who have just emerged from the pain and discomfort of a serious illness. It is a notorious fact in the neighbourhood of Fitzroy Street, Cambridge, that Mr George Stokes, confectioner, had for the past five years been unable to follow his business in consequence of the breakdown of his health. He then related how he came to read in "Lloyds Newspaper" how Dr Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People had worked marvellous cures. "I got the first box of Dr Williams Pink Pills on the 5th of February. After taking the first three pills I began to sleep better, I can now move my neck, limbs and joints without pain except my knees. Certainly the change has been marvellous since I took Dr Williams' Pink Pills"

1897 05 07

Will you allow me a small space to refer to the arrangements for sweeping and cleaning Fitzroy Street? After one gets one's place thoroughly cleaned and dusted, ready for business, we have three men commence sweeping the street and it is impossible sometimes to see across the road for dust. After this is done and the cart takes the rubbish away the water cart makes its appearance about two hours later. Considering that Fitzroy-street is one of the busiest streets of Cambridge I think these things could be altered to the benefit of the tradespeople of the street - letter from "Shopkeeper"

1898 05 0--

About quarter past four am P.C. Thomas Leeds, being on duty in Fitzroy Street, Cambridge, noticed a smell as of something burning and saw a volume of smoke issuing from the house of Thomas More, bricklayer and small shopkeeper. By dint of hammering on the door, shouting, and blowing his whistle, he succeeded in rousing the inmates to a sense of their danger. Mrs More was very nervous about being passed through the window, and her husband was almost obliged to force her out. Meanwhile, other policemen, having heard the whistling, had hurried to the scene, and the alarm was sent to the fire station from the alarm post in Fitzroy Street. In less than ten minutes the men were on the spot with the hose and a steady jet of water directed on to the flames.

1898 09 02

Last night the people of Fitzroy Street, Cambridge, were startled by a loud crash and it was found that one of Messrs Sturton's shop windows had smashed. It seemed that a quantity of hams and cheeses were stored in the window and some becoming dislodged, had rolled down to the glass and smashed it. The window was completely wrecked and the cheeses and hams rolled into the street. The police were promptly in attendance and remained on guard until Mr Sturton arrived and had the window boarded up

1898 10 24

The normal quiet of Cambridge was interrupted by serious conflagration in Fitzroy Street which proved the most destructive to property that has occurred for many years. Cambridge is happily furnished with ample means of notifying outbreaks of fire, and it was through one of the electric alarms erected in various parts of the borough for immediate communication with the central fire station that the resident night watchman received an intimidation that a fire was in progress. Telegraphic communications were without delay dispatched to the competent director of the Volunteer Fire Brigade and the majority of the corps. The wires running to those residing in and about Mill Road were unfortunately out of order, and seven of the willing firemen were therefore debarred from taking an early part in the work

1898 11 05 Fitzroy Street fire, p2

1898 12 09

The keeper of the coffee tavern in Fitzroy Street, Cambridge, was summoned for permitting gaming. P.C. Wright stated he saw 15 boys and young men, several of whom were playing dominoes. He noticed they were playing a "run out game". He asked defendant whether he allowed the lads to play

for anything and he replied "Yes, they play for coffee". The police said they were not allowed to play for money or money's worth. The chairman said it was most desirable to prevent gaming among boys but they did not think it was a very bad case and defendant would only have to pay the costs

1899 05 03

The tripe season. Established over 50 years. E. J. Edwards, Fitzroy Street, Cambridge. The only wholesale and retail neats' feet and tripe dresser, and glaze manufacturer. Eat Edwards' tripe (fresh boiled daily). Recommended by the most eminent medical men as a safe cure for weak stomach and impaired digestion. All the leading colleges and hotels supplied. – Advertisement

1899 10 14

T.B. Hunt opened studio 130 Fitzroy Street, p1

1899 12 16

The tripe season is now in full swing and the noted house for this commodity is E.J. Edward's, 36 Fitzroy St, Cambridge. Tripe is a valuable edible for dyspeptics and other suffering from impaired digestion and as such there should be a good demand for it during the ensuing festive season. Mr Edward's name has been before the public for the past 50 years as a tripe dresser and glaze manufacturer and there is no doubt the stock he has laid in for Christmas will be more than equal to the increased demand.

1899 12 23

While making excavations at the junction of City Road and Fitzroy Street some workmen in the employ of the Cambridge Electric Lighting Company came upon some gruesome remains. They dug up some coffins. It is supposed the site is that of the old burial ground of Eden Street chapel. The remains were removed to Mill Road cemetery, where they were interred. For some reason efforts are being made to prevent the real facts becoming known. The employees of the Electric Light jealously guard what they deem an important secret, and refuse to give any details.

1900 01 25

The Cambridge Co-operative Society has erected spacious new premises in Burleigh Street. The building is imposing and by contrast with the other not very ornate premises in Burleigh Street is rendered all the more conspicuous. On the ground floor are spaces for the butchery, drapery and boot and shoe department. The first floor is well laid out for other branches with a ready-made clothes emporium and on the top floor is a really fine meeting room. The old building in Fitzroy Street will be retained for the grocery portion of the business.

1900 03 30

A bedmaker's help was charged with stealing various articles of clothing from a room at Emmanuel College. She had taken four waistcoats and three pairs of trousers to Norman Bradley's pawnbrokers in Fitzroy Street. She had also pledged a vest for 1s.6d, a pair of gold studs for 4s. & a nightshirt, pants etc which she said were her own property. As a customer for the past 30 years the manager was quite satisfied with her explanation

1900 11 23

Fire broke out at the rear of the premises of Messrs Laurie & McConnal, Fitzroy Street, Cambridge. An employee noticed smoke coming from stacks of brooms, a bag of feathers, a stock of confetti and other material in the cellar. The staff of the firm set to work to extinguish the blaze and by dint of the application of water from a line of buckets and from a hose attached to the water tap, the fire was practically extinguished before the arrival of the fire brigade. It is surmised that a match was dropped down the lift hole by a passer by, and so caused the outbreak

1901 01 17

The Cambridge British Schools removed to handsome and commodious premises in Auckland Road abutting on Midsummer Common – an exceeding pleasant site where there is plenty of light and fresh

air. The common will in summer afford an excellent playground for the boys and a playground for the girls and infants is laid out within the confines of the school premises. Accommodation is provided for 706 scholars and the school is already all but full. Hitherto the scholars have been educated at schools in Fitzroy Street but these buildings have become antiquated

1901 08 07

A proposal to erect a new footbridge over the Cam between the De Freville Estate and Cambridge was advanced at a meeting of occupiers. It would put them in more direct communication with Fitzroy Street. A member of Chesterton Urban District Council thought it should be erected at the Fort St George ferry to benefit the owners of the new Central Estate; but this was a thing of the future. If they waited for this development they might wait five or ten years. They wanted a bridge for De Freville inhabitants immediately and would circulate residents for donations.

1901 09 16

Fitzroy Street fire, p3

1902 03 31

Three men were charged with breaking into a warehouse in Fitzroy Street, Cambridge and stealing a quantity of oranges, the property of Messrs Sturton Bros. Detective White said he found a box with three compartments, two were full of oranges, the third was empty. There was a quantity of orange peel on the warehouse floor. He eventually went to a house in Brunswick Walk where the wife showed him some oranges. Later one man admitted the offence. The men were remanded in custody, an application for bail was refused.

1902 04 18

Coronation 1902. A Proclamation. Messrs Starr and Rignall, the people's photographers, being confident that every loyal subject of H.M. King Edward will appreciate some memento of this the most eventful year of the present decade have decided to give everyone the opportunity of securing one of their high-class cabinet portraits, finished in their best style, for one shilling. See window for special babies' offer. 108 Fitzroy Street, Cambridge. – advert

1902 09 03

Burglars, evidently no 'prentice hands at their business, entered the premises of Messrs Norman Bradley, pawnbrokers, in Fitzroy Street, Cambridge and after rifling the jewellery department left with goods to the value of several hundred pounds. The establishment has suffered in this way before. Iron bars have been added to windows until it might have been assumed that everything was secure against even the most determined cracksman. So the thieves turned their attention to the weakest spot - the roof

1902 09 15

The mystery attaching to the discovery of a suit of khaki clothing on the river bank at Clayhithe has been solved in a remarkable manner. The person seen by four labourers is declared not to have been a man at all, but a woman in disguise. When the khaki clothed individual carrying a brown paper parcel was lost sight of a woman appeared from the same direction. The theory is that the parcel contained not only a woman's attire but was further intended to be the means of removing property which was that night to be stolen from Norman Bradley's pawnbrokers premises in Fitzroy Street, Cambridge.

1902 12 23

At the spacious premises of Laurie and McConnal, Fitzroy Street, Cambridge readers can secure anything they require for a seasonable gift. A special showroom is set apart for the display of cards, pictures, books, toys, games etc and they have a chose selection of mechanical toys which are quite a novelty in themselves. There is also a variety of artificial grasses and plants which it would be difficulty to tell from real; these would make very pretty decorations. There has just recently been added a lending library which includes books of the best-known writers.

1902 12

A good Christmas dinner is desired by all and Messrs Sturton Bros of Fitzroy Street, Cambridge are open to provide everything required. A good fat turkey or goose and a nice ripe Stilton cheese are their specialities. Their groceries are of the very best quality and in the hardware department will be found a large display of useful goods suitable for presents.

1903 02 14

Messrs Laurie and McConnal are almost universal providers, for their extensive premises, nos.121-124 Fitzroy Street, contained many departments. Today they are no more. In their place is a great gap, a space which instead of containing the thousand and one articles wherewith to furnish the homes of Cambridge has nothing to show but heaps of charred timber, twisted iron girders and dismembered masses of masonry. The whole premises have been destroyed as completely as fire can destroy. In less than three hours they licked up goods and buildings valued at up to £100,000 # c.27.2 # c.34.75

1903 02 17

Many thousands of Cambridge people witnessed the spectacle of the fire at Laurie and McConnell's in Fitzroy Street. The crowd increased to gigantic proportions and to keep them in check it was necessary to stretch ropes across on either side. The Mayor, Aldermen and members of the Fire Brigade Committee watched the progress of the fire and the unremitting efforts of the firemen. The interested crowd did not let the firemen work without encouragement and the fireman with the nozzle working in clouds of smoke was cheered heartily when he commenced his task. As soon as the hopelessness of saving Lauries was recognised special attention was turned to defending the adjoining premises of Messrs Sturton and Mumford

1903 02 20

After the great fire in Fitzroy Street, Cambridge, public opinion was strongly expressed in favour of the Volunteer Fire Brigade being in possession of a steam fire engine. It would require, with driver and stoker, eight men to work the engine and, with reliefs of the same number, would necessitate 16 men being engaged. But with only one engine they would have been able to play four jets on either the front or back of the fire, and one side would be entirely unprovided for. The engines and paid brigade would be so expensive that the town authorities would not be justified in incurring the outlay for protecting the few buildings at which they might be necessary.

1903 02 20

The Great Fire. Laurie & McConnal, Ltd., Universal stores, Fitzroy Street, Cambridge, will open their temporary premises in Fair Street with brand new stock of furnishing, general ironmongery, stationery, haberdashery, china and glass. Business usual in the Boot and Tool department, right opposite the destroyed building. – Advert

1903 05 21

Cambridge councillors discussed plans for the erection of new premises for Laurie and McConnal, Fitzroy Street. The bye-laws said there should be a certain amount of air-space behind domestic buildings – house, office or shop - and these had no such space. There was no doubt the plans were in contravention of the bye-laws, the question was whether the Council would refuse them. If they were passed it would be an illegal act. They should not alter the bye-laws to suit the convenience of any class of people

1903 09 03

Cambridge burgesses who for conscientious reasons refuse to pay the Education Rate appeared in court. Large crowds packed the entrance as cheering in the street heralded the approach of the passive resisters. The decorum of the court broke down and applause gave way to lusty cheering which the police made no effort to subdue. George Shippey said public money should not be devoted to denominational teaching. Benjamin Liles of Fitzroy Street said the Education Act violates the British Constitution; hitherto he had an opportunity of taking part in the election of the persons who made the rate, now he would have no voice and that was why he refused to pay

1903 11 21

One of the events of the year was the great fire which swept away the extensive premises of Messrs Laurie & McConnal in Fitzroy Street, Cambridge. Now within nine months the ruins have been replaced by more convenient, commodious and up-to-date premises and the business is in full swing in its new home. They are the first entirely steel-frame buildings erected in this country. Those who remember the former premises cannot but be struck with the immense improvement effected, with lifts, driven by an electric motor, at the service of customers any time of the day.

1904 01 21

Cambridge councillors considered the purchase of a steam fire engine. The two fires at Addenbrooke's Hospital and Fitzroy Street were bad, but took place under favourable conditions – in the first the wind took the flames away from the Hospital and in the other there was a brick wall, instead of lathe and plaster. Since then there had been two other fires, in Sidney Street and Rose Crescent which might have resulted disastrously. In the centre of town whole blocks of buildings might be burnt down. The only additional expenditure would be the cost of an engineer. But the Fire Brigade did not want one and they ought to know more than councillors

1904 05 14

Some years ago a Wicken labourer who was remonstrated with by the parson for not sending his son to school, gave as his reason the ignorance of the schoolmaster who "actually taught his son Alf to spell 'taters' with a 'p'!" But in Fitzroy Street Cambridge we have a 'Shrit' maker (presumably a maker of shirts) and find 'fresh fish on sail every day'. A shoemaker announces that boots are sold and heeled at reasonable prices' and nearby there is a 'wheelebarrow for sale'. Not far removed one can read that 'Horehound Bear' is on sale.

1905 09 23

The differences between the Cambridge Town Council and the National Telephone Company have resulted in a grave situation. A writ ordering the removal of poles from Corporation property has been issued which, if obeyed, would disconnect the whole of Fitzroy Street and Newmarket Road from the rest of the system. The crux of the matter is the Council's decision not to allow the Company to lay underground wires. But this would give a more efficient service and they have offered to pay the Council to do the work and give them half-a-crown per subscriber. 05 09 23 & a

1907 05 09

There has been a great increase in the number of people leaving Cambridgeshire for Canada. One agent, Alfred Suttle, tobacconist of Fitzroy Street, has booked 67 passengers since February. The ocean passage is from £5 10s (third class). The majority are skilled mechanics of the working class, railway labourers or domestic servants trying for their fortune in a land where wages are double what they are here. 07 05 09a

1907 10 15

A fire occurred at the Fitzroy Street premises of Messrs Sturton. The possibilities of a similar conflagration to that which occurred at Laurie and McConnal's establishment a few years ago seemed probable for close by were a large number of paraffin barrels and tanks containing oil. Capt Greef and 20 firemen were soon on the scene with the horsed fire escape and the steam fire engine was got out in readiness. But their services were not required as P.C. Gee, assisted by several civilians, extinguished the flames. 07 10 15a

1907 12 20

Everyone's digestion is impaired at Christmas by the quantity of unsuitable food which our tyrannous English customs force us to consume. When your gastric juices are quite dried up, a length or two of toothsome tripe (fresh boiled daily) purchased at Edwards' Tripe Shop, 36 Fitzroy Street, will soon put you right. - 07 12 20

1908 01 17

Canada has many miles of fertile land only awaiting the plough and the harrow, the farmer and the fruit grower to yield an abundance of food to the world and increase the wealth of those who can and will work. For labourers of the 'right stuff' there is plenty of work, good homes and good wages. There is no room for fellows who won't work but unlimited opportunities for men who will, meetings at Cambridge Guildhall and Willingham were told. Emigrants should contact Mr A. Suttle, 109 Fitzroy Street, the agent for Canada. 08 01 17d & e

1908 02 25

The sale of the estate of Mr R.R. Rowe, late Borough Surveyor, includes a block of property mid-way between the station and the Post Office which would be suitable for the erection of a college, church, hotel or other business purposes. The residence known as Park House on Parkside, together with houses in Fitzroy Street, King Street and French's Road are also offered in the largest sale held in Cambridge for some long time. 08 02 25 & a & 29

1910 01 14

Mr Paget's supporters held a torchlight procession through Regent Street, Emmanuel Road, Fitzroy Street, King Street and St Andrew's Street. Torches of many kinds, some of an evidently hastily prepared character, were held aloft and Mr Paget rode in a carriage in the centre of the procession, which included about 30 horsemen who formed an imposing guard of honour. The Conservative candidate was accompanied by crowds of men, lads and even women and girls, bearing aloft torches, pink lights and Union Jacks, and blowing tin trumpets and whistles. CWN 10 01 14a # c.33

1910 04 01

Easter 1910 will be long remembered for its delightful holiday weather. The religious services both on Friday and Sunday were remarkably well attended and on Friday evening a large audience attended a performance of the 'Messiah' at the Guildhall. Many Cambridge people went out of town by train. Yarmouth, Lowestoft and Cromer were the most popular watering places, Hunstanton attracting fewer people than usual. There were scores of cyclists and motorists on the roads, all very cheerful in spite of the dust nuisance. The Territorials held a parade for 250 men and the 1st Eastern General Hospital were busy training at Haslingfield. A miniature rifle range was opened at the Working Men's Institute in Fitzroy Street. 10 04 01a

1910 04 29

Frederick Hawkins, proprietor of the Picture Palace, Workman's Hall, Fitzroy Street appeared in court under the Gaming Act. He had distributed numbered handbills and given half-a-crown to the person whose number he showed on screen. On Saturday night there were other prizes of a silver-plated teapot, silver-plated cruet and six teaspoons in a case. Hawkins said he'd done it to test if advertising by handbills was any good. But it was a breach of the law and he was given a nominal fine. 10 04 29a

1910 11 25

A postman named Hall noticed smoke issuing from the front door of a house at 7 Hobart Road. The kitchen window was open and in company with George Hills, a rag and bone dealer, he entered the house and found the chimney-place in the living room on fire. Another blaze broke out in Mr George Wesson's residence situated close to the brewery in Fitzroy Street. His wife had placed a portable gas stove in the bath-room which set light to the curtains and furniture. The amount of damage has been estimated at £20 and is covered by insurance. A number of constables and 13 firemen under Captain Greef were in attendance. 10 11 25a

1912 01 05

'Canada, the land of opportunities and work for all' was the title of a lecture at Orwell by Mr F.O. Chapman accompanied by Mr Alfred Suttle, the well-known shipping agent of Fitzroy Street. He has parties leaving every week and those desirous of emigrating should secure their berths with him. The schoolroom was packed with one of the largest audiences ever seen in the village and the lecture, illustrated by beautiful photographic views, was heartily applauded at the close. Cities were springing

up like mushrooms, the wondrous fertility of the soil made husbandry enormously remunerative and the Canadian Government offered any man 160 acres of land free.12 01 05 & a

1912 01 05

An Excise officer walked into Thomas Hardy's sweet shop in Fitzroy Street at 10.30 one evening and bought a bottle of lemonade, which he drank on the premises. This rendered the shopkeeper liable to a penalty of £20 for 'keeping a refreshment house without a licence'. It is perfectly legal to drink lemonade in the shop until ten at night and after five in the morning but otherwise it is a serious offence. The magistrates dismissed the case. It will act as a warning to those who wish to oblige thirsty teetotallers after the mystic hour of ten 12 01 05j & k

1912 07 26

Kirtling had three public houses, the Beehive, Queen's Head and the Red Lion with a licensed house in the hamlet of Upend nearly a mile away. Dr Wilkins had his surgery at the Beehive and some of his patients had their meals there, Methodist preachers left their horses there – although most now cycle. It was the most convenient for the men visiting Perrin's smithy and the allotments. All the principal people of the village – apart from the parson – had signed a memorial to keep it, licensing magistrates were told. Also: Licensing: Steeple Morden Hill House, Cherry Hinton Russian Arms, Swavesey Red Lion, Cambridge: Duke of Gloucester Prospect Row, Rose & Crown & Windmill in Russell St, Danish Flag in Fitzroy St, Lamb in Guildhall St (details), Compasses in East Road 12 07 26 o&p

1912 09 20

Hobson Street chapel was opened in 1849 by Wesleyans had previously met in a chapel in Fitzroy Street and a room in Green Street. It became a spiritual home for residents and undergraduates and was improved in 1891. But it has become inadequate. The Fitzroy Street chapel had become a jam warehouse but Hobson Street will be replaced by the new County Council offices. They will now meet in the Victoria Assembly Room until the new Wesley Chapel on Christ's Pieces is ready. 12 09 20c

1912 09 27

Chesterton Road was the scene of a very remarkable fire. A motor lorry belonging to Messrs Sturton of Fitzroy Street, laden with cans of petrol was totally destroyed. The highly-inflammable spirit became ignited and a fire of extraordinary fierceness blocked the road with a sheet of flame. Can after can exploded flinging its contents in a blazing shower in all directions. The flames leapt to an astonishing height, reaching above the tops of houses and were accompanied by volumes of black, oily smoke. The paint on the door of a house on the river side began to blister and trees in the garden began to shrivel and smoke. It was impossible for the fire brigade to get near and it had to be left to burn itself out 12 09 27

1912 10 18

Charles Sharpe, furniture dealer Fitzroy St bankruptcy – 12 10 18h

1912 12 27

A serious case of overcrowding was reported at a lodging house at 57 Fitzroy Street. The Medical Officer said there were four rooms, two of which were bedrooms. The front sitting room was used as a bedroom by night. It was occupied by the owner, his wife and five-month-old baby, a man and 10-year-old daughter and Mr & Mrs Smith with two girls aged 14 & 12 and three boys of seven, five and two years. Such overcrowding was injurious to the people and a danger to neighbours as infectious diseases could easily spread 12 12 27c

1913 02 21

The Trustees of the 'Hope' Classroom in Paradise Street have offered to present it to the Education Committee for educational purposes. The Trustees of Eden Street Higher Grade School also offered their site and building for educational purposes on payment of £200 to be invested in maintaining the St Andrew the Less Parish Institute in Fitzroy Street. The school had been closed down because the

buildings were too bad and a new one built in Melbourn Place but could be used for instruction in domestic subjects 13 02 21 p7 CIP

1913 03 14

Cambridge pubs – Newmarket Road - Bird Bolt; East Road, Shakespeare; Norwich Street – Norwich Arms; Cambridge Place – Three Pigeons; Fitzroy Street – Old English Gentleman adjoined Wesson's Brewery and had been in the Wesson family for 70 years. The accommodation was good, the rooms were spacious, lofty and airy. It had a good bottle and jug department, a good bar, billiard room, smoke room, cellar and bedroom accommodation.

1913 04 25

John Clee, assistant to Morley, pawnbrokers of Fitzroy Street, testified he had hung up a new suit outside the shop but when he went to take it in he found just the coat and waistcoat – the trousers were missing. An assistant at Norman Bradley, pawnbrokers, said a regular customer had come in and pledged them for three shillings and sixpence. The prisoner said he'd met a man in Fitzroy Street who'd asked him to pledge the trousers and had received sixpence for doing so. But the Mayor read over a list of convictions dating back to 1893. He was convicted and sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labour 13 04 25 p3 CIP

1913 07 11

P. Schick, Fitzroy St patent for bakers' ovens

1914 02 13

Cambridge licenses – Duke of Gloucester Prospect Row, Rose and Crown & Windmill in Russell St, Danish Flag in Fitzroy St, Compasses on East Rd have closed; are 233 licensed for sale intoxicating liquor on premises and 36 off – 14 02 13,

1915 09 03

Fitzroy St fire, shops – Peake's, Waller tailoring, Rouse outfitters

1916 08 16

Tribunal includes: Macintosh applies for cutler and grinder; Sturton St grocery stores; Higher Grade School master; Roff, grocer and furniture dealer St Philip's Rd; Verlander of Fitzroy St, china dealer; Histon Road cemetery curator; Saints garage; Cambridge Brick Company; Panton Brewery; Fabb & Tyler; 16 08 16a

1918 01 02

Incident – horse dashes into window Norman Bradley pawnbroker's shop, Fitzroy St – 18 01 02a

1918 02 06

Communal dinner for children at East Road School, supplied by Fitzroy Street Communal Kitchen – 18 02 06c

1918 11 06

Communal Dinners. — Young children enjoy midday meals at the East Road schools now. The meals, which were started on January 14, are supplied by the Fitzroy Street communal kitchen, and each child pays a small sum per week for five dinners. When the school was first started there were only 23 children who availed themselves of the opportunity of taking their dinner at the school, but now the number has increased to about 40. The dinner is served in a room which was formerly the baby room of the old school, but which for a number of years has been used as a .storeroom. The room has been cleaned, distempered and decorated, and presents quite a cheery appearance.

1918 10 02

Mayoralty. — At a meeting of the Liberal members of the Borough Council .on Monday evening, Coun. Ralph Starr was selected as Mayor for the ensuing year as from November 9 next. Mr. Starr's name has been mentioned on more than one occasion with the Mayoralty, so that his selection now will come as no surprise. A meeting of the Conservative councillors has been called, when the chairman (Col. Beales) will announce the receipt of a formal intimation of the Liberal Party's decision, and no doubt, following the usual custom, the Conservatives will acquiesce. The Mayorelect, who is a member of the firm of Messrs. Starr and Rignall. Photographers, Fitzroy Street, has been a member of the council since February, 1904.

1919 04 30

Hot cross buns and new-laid eggs distributed in Fitzroy Street – 19 04 30c

1920 01 30

Fire back Peak's stores, Fitzroy Street # c.34.75

1921 07 13

Public house closures – Melbourn Oak, Shepreth Half-way House; Over Black Horse, Bourn Greyhound' Cambridge Cherry Tree in Fitzroy St; Sovereign in Gold Street; Marquis of Granby in Bridge St; - 21 07 13b

1921 11 23

Fitzroy Street fire Sturton's shop – 21 11 23c

1923 05 26

Cambridge is justly proud of its business veterans, and it may truly be said that no one is held in higher respect than Mr William Heffer. He started as a groom but resolved to make a start in business on his own, and opened as a stationers and newsagents in a shop which is still his, the Post Office in Fitzroy Street. It has been said that Mr Heffer to a large extent altered the character of Fitzroy Street, for when he introduced to Cambridge the 25% discount off books, university men and others not accustomed to frequenting that part of the town, began to stream up there, and, of course, other tradesmen - benefited in consequence.

1923 09 10

Fire at T.B. Hunt photographer's shop Fitzroy Street; confined to outhouse which he used as developing room; destroys cameras plates and developing set

1925 06 05

Cambridge council was told that the Brunswick school did not exist at the present time because the Borough surveyor drew attention to the giving way of the building, and they first of all had to pull down the Boys' School because it was dragging the other part down, and eventually they pulled down the Girls' School. The girls were in temporary premises at Paradise Street School and the boys in Fitzroy Street. They had to bear in mind that a new bridge was going to be built at Walnut Tree Avenue some time – (laughter) – and when that was done they would have to accommodate some children from old Chesterton.

1927 05 06

1927 08 11

Cambridge Guildhall was packed for "Welcome Home" and jubilee celebrations organised in honour of Gypsy Smith, the world-famed evangelist, who has just returned from Australia and New Zealand. The Gypsy told of some of his experiences during this last tour and recounted again how he was converted in the little chapel in Fitzroy Street. A telegraph of "much satisfaction" was received from the King and he was presented with a history of Cambridge. The Mayor said that 50 years of service was a wonderful record. He was the missionary and evangelist to the English-speaking people and had probably spoken to more of the English race that any person, living or dead. Cambridge ought to be particularly proud as his career had started here.

A man was arrested in connection with the burglary at Norman Bradley's Fitzroy Street premises where entry had been made by forcing apart the iron bars of a window. He was traced and identified by fingerprints left on a glass panel inside the shop. They had been sent to New Scotland Yard for examination. The jewellery, which amounts to £239 has not yet been recovered.

1928 01 06

A gale swept through Cambridge & telephone communication to all places was lost, with the exception of direct traffic to London. Three large windows at the front of Eden Baptist Church, Fitzroy Street, were blown in and the wreckage smashed three front seats in the gallery. The flag staff at Great St Mary's church snapped under the pressure of the high wind. Cyclists who attempted to battle against the elements were almost stationary on their machines. In Hills Road an errand boy was blown from his bike and sustained a cut knee. In the flooded areas the wind whipped the water into whirling maelstroms.

1929 01 16

Joseph Ashworth Sturton, principal director of Messrs Sturton Ltd of Fitzroy Street and a former Mayor of Cambridge has died at Bournemouth. The son of Joseph Sturton, the founder of the business 100 years ago who developed the land now known as Sturton Town, he was born above the shop and proved an industrious business man, opening branches throughout the region. In 1919 he purchased Thurston's bakers and confectioners and soon added a café. Mr Sturton was one of the first in Cambridge to interest himself in the motor car and took up the commercial car in connection with his business. He was a prominent nonconformist and founded the flourishing New Street Men's Bible Class.

1929 03 22

Cambridge councillors debated the proposed exchange of Butts Green for New Square in order that it might be converted into a parking place. If I lived in New Square I should not be at all pleased at the idea of that nice little patch of green giving way to a parking place, but if I had a business establishment in Fitzroy Street I should say "Yes, let the cars park there by all means". There is a danger of New Square being built upon in the near future and residents may consider a car park the least of two evils. Others are concerned about using the amenities of Butts Green, though one questioned whether it was used for anything but beating carpets.

1929 03 22

Percival Rodrigo, a canvasser ... obtaining photograph ... from Gertrude Thompson ... said he was setting up a branch in Fitzroy Street and canvassing photos for advertisements – would enlarge it .. Represented the Westminster Studios. Albert Chandler, photographer printed leaflets warning about canvassers - CDN 22.3.29

1929 12 10

Sir – I was in the vicinity of Fitzroy Street early one morning and could see a driver with a one-horse van coming from Burleigh Street. He turned right on the corner round Eden Chapel on the wrong side and left down James Street, heedless of any danger. On seeing a police constable I asked whether he had noticed the careless driving around these blind corners. He replied: "This man, being alone driving one horse and van is under no rules or regulations and if he wishes is at liberty to wobble all over the road". I suggest members of Eden Chapel should be approached over this unsightly spot, with its projecting iron fence; it is a serious block to public traffic. All such dangerous corners should be abolished – E. Calydon, Parsonage Street, and Cambridge.

1930 01 15

From modest beginnings in Fitzroy Street the history of the House of Heffer is one of continuous progress. The Printing Works on Hills Road has been considerable enlarged, last year saw reconstruction of the Petty Cury Bookshop which is now twice its original size, and this year sees the reconstruction of the Sidney Street Stationery and Art Shop. It will be a shop worthy of its central

position. The new premises will have five floor, the frontage will be in the Georgian style with pilasters, fascia and columns of grey polished granite and the upper part will be faced with red Flemish bricks with Weldon stone dressings to the windows. A unique feature will be the Picture Gallery on the third flood with a barrel-shaped ceiling

1932 04 11

A woman had a narrow escape from injury when the pavement blew up as she was walking down Fitzroy Street. She had almost passed the 'Fitzroy Arms' when an electrical junction blew opposite Williamson's shop sending a shower of stones into the air. Smoke coming out of the cracked pavement turned into a sheet of flame six foot high after a man threw a bucket of water on it. 32 04 11

1932 09 23

The Union of British Methodism – bringing together the Wesleyan, Primitive and United Methodists - is the most important event in the history of British Nonconformity since the birth of Wesley. Cambridge's first Methodist chapel in Fitzroy Street was where Gipsy Smith heard the sermon which led to him becoming an evangelist. It is now Fellowship House for the local unemployed. 32 09 23b & c

1933 10 21

The club for unemployed men at Fellowship House, Fitzroy Street has been renovated by members and now present a very cost appearance. It has a club room and canteen, a workroom fitted with benches at which men do woodwork and picture framing, a concert and lecture room complete with a piano purchased for three shillings, and a ping-pong and billiards room. During the war the Welsh troops had used it as a cookhouse, later it became a brush factory and furniture store but no better use could possibly be made of it. 33 10 21

1935 01 22

Fire destroyed the Evelyn White drapery shop in Fitzroy Street shop and the owner and his wife escaped in their nightclothes, with only a coat thrown over them. All that remains is a tangled mass of debris, blackened and ruin by the flames. Here and there the remnants of a dress could be recognised but everything was burnt beyond repair. Flames also threatened Norman Bradley's shop next door: the thin dividing wall was scorching and might have flared up at any moment. Firemen were kept fully occupied in keeping smouldering materials from catching again and were badly hampered through the insulation having been burnt off the electric light wires, several received electric shocks before it was decided to have the current cut off at the main. 35 01 22

1935 12 05

John Whitehead, 65, has been in the fruit and vegetable trade all his life. He started hawking goods on a barrow and then with a horse and cart. About 40 years ago he took a shop in Fitzroy Street and struggled to bring up a big family – he had 13 sons. It was difficult to obtain goods during the Great War but afterwards got a motor lorry and in 1933 went to London for goods for the Christmas trade. They were brought to a garage in Cambridge from which they were stolen. Then a run-away horse smashed up his van and the lorry ran into a lamp post. 35 12 05b

1936 05 30

Fitzroy Street shop owner blames losses on Corporation slum clearance and multiple shops 36 05 30

1936 08 22

Mr & Mrs Ben Mills of Sleaford Street received a telegram of congratulations from the King on their diamond wedding. Born at Hardwick, he lost his right arm in an accident at the age of nine. Refusing to allow that disability to mar his life, he came to St Paul's School, Cambridge and soon qualified as a teacher. He worked for W.G. Chater, the woollen merchants before joining the Co-operative movement in 1876, starting at the old shop in Fitzroy Street. In 1901 he opened the new shop in Burleigh Street with a silver key and has seen the premises grow. He became Provincial Grand

Master of the Oddfellows. His wife has been a familiar figure at the functions, quietly lending a hand 'behind the scenes' and catering for juvenile outings. 36 08 22a

1938 04 19

A Cambridge newsagent for over half a century, Mr Frederick Rossendale passed away after a stroke at the age of 81. A well-known figure locally, he was a member of the Borough Police Force before he opened his newsagent's business at 14 Fitzroy Street, trading under the name of Rossendale and Clamp. As a bank messenger he had the task of taking the bank money from Cambridge to London by train before the days of modern transport facilities. 38 04 19

1934 04 05

Frank Suttle started in Fitzroy Street in 1901 with well-remembered slogan, 'Suttle's my tailor – make him yours' – Advertisers - 38 04 05

1938 12 13

Cambridgeshire Photographic Record exhibition – includes watercolours of areas impossible to photograph including view of Fitzroy Street and Burleigh Street corner from roof of Laurie & McConnal's painted by Beryl Pickering; other sketches include the Saxon Cement Works, Eagle Hotel yard, Hobson Street from King Street end, Miss M.C. Greene paintings of yards – Ninepin, True Blue, Ram Yard, Falcon Yard. Last thatched roof in Blackamoor Head Yard - 38 12 13a

1942 03 23

Frank Evans, Fitzroy Street tailor & outfitter & Cam Sailing Club supporter, dies – 42 03 23

1942 07 10

Peaks carting co, Fitzroy Street – furniture delivery vans – advert – 42 07 10

1942 09 24

A.E. Stearn started as grocer in East Road in Jan 1893; in 1908 wholesale side transferred to Fitzroy Street where carried on by sons. -420924

1945 05 11

VE celebrations –45 05 11a; Beaconsfield Hall children, Sturton St, Cowper Rd, Norwich St – 45 05 16; Perne Ave, Mowbray Road, Beche Rd, Norfolk St – 45 05 18; Hobart Rd, Bradmore St, Russell St - 45 05 19b; Young St, Gonville Road & Charles St, Cam Causeway, Gt Eastern St - 45 02 22a; Ditton Fields, Romsey Women Conservatives, Suez Rd, Covent Garden, Eden St – 45 05 23; York St, Thoday St, Kingston St, Northampton St, Cherry Hinton – 45 05 24; Hills Ave, City Rd, Cavendish Rd, Malta Rd – 45 05 25; Mowbray Rd, Willow Walk, Springfield Rd, Kelvin Close – 45 05 26b; New St, Chesterton High St – 45 05 28a; Cockburn St, Newnham Croft, Madras Rd, Henley Road & Coldham's Lane – 45 05 30; Barnwell, Wellington St, Fitzroy St, Devonshire Rd – 45 05 30b; children entertained Cherry Hinton, Fairfax Rd – 45 06 02; Vinery Rd, Eastfield – 45 06 04; Catherine St, Ditton Walk, Union Lane – 45 06 05; Gwydir St, Abbey (East) – 45 06 06; Meadowlands Estate, Argyle St, Hope St, De Freville Estate – 45 06 07; Ross St, Hemingford Rd, Green End Rd, Staffordshire St, Selwyn Rd, Coldham's Grove, Coldham's Lane, Akeman St – 45 06 11; Brooks Rd, Sedgwick St, Langham Rd, Oxford Rd, Haig Road, Chesterton – 45 06 13a; Windsor Rd, Stretten Ave, Kimberley Rd, Abbey Road, Walnut Tree Ave, Brookfields - 45 06 18; Trumpington, Mansfield Hall – 45 06 19; Cavendish Ave, Hinton Ave, Hope Hall for Deaf – 45 06 21a; Histon Rd children – 45 06 30; St Peter's St, Greens Rd – 45 07 10

1947 08 09

An obituary notice in "The Times" of Wednesday began with these words: "Mr Rodney ('Gypsy') Smith, one of the most remarkable evangelists of modern times, died at the age of 87 on the Queen Mary while on his way to Florida to recuperate after a severe illness". It was I believe in 1938, a year after the death of his first wife, that Gypsy Smith gave up "Romany Tan", his residence in Cambridge,

but for many years before that he was a familiar figure in the town. In his autobiography he tells how he was converted at "a little Primitive Methodist Chapel in Fitzroy Street", Cambridge.

1948 08 12

At Cambridge petty sessions a 19-year old soldier appeared on a charge of possessing a "Walther" 6.35 automatic pistol at the time of attempting to steal cash from a weighing machine. PC Bass said he was in Fitzroy Street and heard the sound of coins being rattled. He saw two men bending over a slot weighing machine, both ran off but he followed the defendant on his bicycle and eventually caught him. Next day a small automatic pistol was found lying on a wall. Defendant said, "I dumped it there after the policeman had arrested me and while he was ringing the Police Station for a conveyance"

1949 01 22

During the war the Tabernacle Methodist Church in Newmarket road, Cambridge, was closed and the property sold. The history of the church went back over many years, having its early beginnings in the old Fitzroy Street chapel. There were hopes that at some future date the work so nobly done by the two old chapels would be carried on. In the very near future some of these hopes may be realised, as the trustees intend to acquire the piece of land adjoining the YWCA hall and opposite the Borough cemetery, Newmarket road, for the purpose of commencing a new Methodist cause

1949 06 23

The fact that two families had to be rehoused owing to the direct harm done children through being in the proximity of a slaughterhouse was mentioned at the meeting of the Cambridge National Council of Women. Three children in one family have been recommended for the Open Air School as they were in a nervous condition, entirely due to being near a slaughterhouse. They expressed "grave concern" at the council's decision to renew the slaughterhouse licence in Fitzroy Street, which was in a congested residential area & urged the council to provide a municipal abattoir with the most modern hygienic equipment for the humane slaughter of animals, situated away from a residential district.

1951 09 11

Mr Joseph Henry Priest of Waterbeach, who died suddenly aged 73, was well-known in sporting circles. Fifty years ago he was an amateur champion cyclist and for over 40 years he has been closely identified with the Cam Sailing Club. Setting up for himself as a stationer and print seller in Bridge Street, Cambridge, he continued until the First World War when he opened up the premises as a ladies' outfitter in conjunction with Mr C.N. Mitcham. Later he took the corner premises now occupied by Messrs Peak in Fitzroy Street and carried on as 'The Quality Shop' and subsequently joined the firm of C.N. Mitcham's of Chesterton. In the heyday of amateur theatricals he was a member of the Bijou Amateurs.

1952 05 20

Known throughout Cambridge as "Lightning", 78-years-old Ernest Siggers, a former well-known local newsvendor has died. He lived the life of a recluse. The only time his neighbours in Fitzroy Street ever took any notice of him was just before he went to Linton Hospital in 1948. On that occasion he lit an explosive flu cleaner to clear the chimney of soot. It cleared the soot all right. And early cleared the flat and its contents too.

1952 11 17

Mr George Hawkins, who has been the sole owner of G.P. Hawkins Ltd has announced that he has disposed of his entire shareholding to the Cambridge Co-operative Society. The firm was founded in 1838 in Fitzroy Street, which is still one of their shops. At the beginning of the century the late Mr G.P. Hawkins opened a shop and café in Sidney Street. In 1929 these premises and the adjoining site were extensively developed resulting in the opening in 1931 of 'The Dorothy' as it stands today.

1953 02 23

A new branch of the Westminster Bank opened in Fitzroy Street, Cambridge, a fairly busy district which up to now has not been served by a bank of any sort. Inside the visitor is greeted with an attractively decorated modern interior. Cheques will be taken to the parent branch in Bene't Street where they are photographed and available for the customer to examine. An interesting feature is that a night safe has been provided. The first person to open an account was Geoffrey Nichols, of the Free Press, Prospect Row.

1954 07 07

The old-established department store of Laurie and McConnal of Fitzroy Street, Cambridge has been purchased by the London firm of Shirley Bros, but they say the public will not notice the changes. The store was opened by Mr James Laurie and in recognition of advice given by his friend Mr McConnal he decided to use both names as a trading title, though only members of the Laurie family actually held shares. It prospered as an ironmonger's shop but following a major fire in 1903 was rebuilt as one of the biggest departmental stores in East Anglia, increasing its scope to include almost everything for the home and garden.

1855 02 18

A scheme for the re-development of the Fitzroy Street area as the main commercial centre of Cambridge has been submitted by a London Architect. It is a counter-proposition to the official Development Plan which could only result in the eventual complete destruction of the essential character of the city. The greater part of the area consists of out-dated two-storey cottages with extensive yards and is largely a slum. Re-development is due and can be done without the restrictions of historical associations and high land values. There would be a series of attractive courtyards unencumbered with traffic, one of which is large enough to take the place of the present Market Hill. An essential feature of the scheme is a new thoroughfare to link Gonville Place with Victoria Avenue and complete the inner Ring Road. 55 02 18a

1955 10 15

Two brothers, both of whom carry on house furnishing business in Cambridge, brought their fourth High Court action against each other. A woman customer had gone to buy a refrigerator, saw a shop named Peak's in King Street and assumed it was the same as Peak's Furnishers of Fitzroy Street where she had an account. It was delivered to her house but then she went to Fitzroy Street to pay for it. The judge said this was a case of the utmost triviality and it was surprising it had not happened many times before. 55 10 15

1955 12 13

Current trends in two-wheeled transport seem to be moving in favour of the motor-scooter. Now Hallens have opened a new showroom in Fitzroy Street, Cambridge devoted solely to scooters and 'mopeds' (known to the uninitiated as auto-cycles) which illustrates the increased public demand for this form of transport. 55 12 13

1956 02 21

Fire seriously damaged Laurie and McConnal's warehouse in Willow Place, Fitzroy Street. Children and old folk were evacuated as over 50 firemen fought Cambridge's biggest fire for years in near-arctic conditions. They were taken to the Church Army Hall where, huddling round a blazing fire, they wondered what would happen to their homes. Volunteers from the Hopbine public house assisted firemen to save their furniture. 56 02 21c & d

1956 04 19

An enquiry heard that Cambridge city council had wanted to purchase land at the junction of Fitzroy Street and Wellington Street, pull down the old houses and use the land to re-site industry displaced from the East Road area. They offered to pay the current price but the owner, a former chairman of the Council's Finance Committee, said that if the land had potential for light industry then the price should be higher. Eventually negotiations broke down. Now he applied to redevelop the area, but the council opposed his plans. 56 04 19a & b

1958 05 10

A new Supermarket in Fitzroy Street was picketed by shop workers protesting against late opening. Fine Fare has a policy of opening until eight o'clock on Friday nights for the convenience of the public and the shop was full of people. But the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers see this as leading to a return to the twelve-hour days shop assistants used to have to work. 57 11 31c Reston House, Fitzroy Street – John Reston, Master of Jesus 1546 bequeathed land which sold in 1956 to fund building - 58 05 10a

1958 09 25

An inquiry into plans for the compulsory purchase and clearance orders affecting 67 houses in East Road, Fitzroy Street, Adam and Eve Street and Gloucester Terrace heard from three objectors. Mr J.N. Baldry had plans to develop his site in connection with his mineral water business. But the Medical Officer said the area contained some of the worst houses in Cambridge: they were all unfit and clearance would serve the interests of public health. 58 09 25

1959 04 29

The City Council is to consider the largest project ever undertaken in Cambridge. The giant Lion Yard scheme includes a two-decker underground car park taking 731 vehicles, a unique 'pedestrian shopping precinct', a new central library, residential hotel and a petrol filling station. Jesus College have also submitted a scheme for the redevelopment of the north side of Fitzroy Street. Many think that increases in shopping facilities ought to take place as an extension of this well-established area. 59 04 29a-d & 59 04 29e

1959 07 24

Councillors withdrew their attention from the Lion Yard area to a part of the city which some have always considered of equal importance – Fitzroy Street. This should be comprehensively redeveloped to provide residential, shopping and business facilities with a new bus station. The Lion Yard should be developed with a library, civic restaurant and small car park, leaving the frontages as they are, some argued. 59 07 24b & c

1960 06 17

Peak's Furnishers Ltd of Fitzroy Street have opened large premises in the new covered shopping arcade in Bradwell's Court. The electrical appliances section is well-stocked with the leading makes of washing machines, spin-dryers; demonstrations are a daily event and prompt delivery guaranteed. It also has a number of model kitchens fitted right down to the last detail and attractive displays of bedroom, lounge and dining furniture are beautifully displayed in room settings. 60 06 17a & b

1961 01 11

The only area of Cambridge suitable for a regional shopping centre is that around City Road and Fitzroy Street, a University development plan says. It has space for shops, restaurants, car parks and houses and could be well-served by public transport. By contrast the city centre does not meet the land requirement unless there is such demolition that it would affect the character of the area. The roads are poor and provision of adequate car parking would be an impossible task. 61 01 11c

1961 05 29

Westminster Bank opened their first Cambridge branch at the junction of Trumpington Street and Bene't Street in 1845. It was closely connected with University and College life and the original premises have been enlarged several times. Now a continued expansion in business has seen a handsome new bank in St Andrew's Street together with the modernisation of the one in Fitzroy Street which opened in 1952 to cater for that active and expanding shopping area 61 05 29a

1965 05 09

Cambridgeshire Planning Department has described the University's scheme to create a new regional shopping centre in the Fitzroy Street area as 'basically an impractical proposal'. Their idea is incompatible with the County Development Plan principle of restricting industrial and population

growth. The extra traffic would mean roads would have to be improved to urban motorway standard and rehousing the existing residential population would impose a severe strain on the building industry 62 05 09a

1962 07 19

The University's plans for Cambridge envisage a new shopping area off Fitzroy Street providing sites for large retailing units, segregated pedestrians and vehicular traffic areas and car parking close enough for shoppers to walk. All future schemes for redevelopment of University sites should have adequate car parking; this is the University's view and they will bear their share of the car parking burden, the Estate Manager told an Inquiry. 62 07 19

1963 12 19

One Cambridge bandstand is always empty. It was built 60 years ago and originally stood in a tea garden belonging to Laurie & McConnal, from where a violinist would have entertained the customers. The tea garden closed before the bandstand could be use and it has stood silent ever since. To get there the musician must climb three flights of stairs, borrow a ladder, open two fanlights, climb a railing and walk across the roof of the roof of the store. For it stands 100 feet above Fitzroy Street and is perched on a corner of the store roof 63 12 19

1964 04 02

P.F. Thompson furniture shop bought premises in Fitzroy Street in 1881 – feature – 64 04 02a

1964 05 22

Peaks new carpet centre, Fitzroy St – 64 05 22

1964 08 28

Traders are split over proposals for a new shopping centre off Fitzroy Street. Claude Scott, motor agents, say trade would be increased but he would seek full compensation to leave. T. Tarrants tobacconists, say it would be good but family businessman A.P. Cook of Prospect Row, who has run a grocery store for 50 years, says he will fight hard against compulsory purchase. Mrs J.A. Douglas of Earl Street, who has just modernised her house, is horrified at the proposals. 64 08 28c

1964 08 31

Nearly 1,000 houses and 60 businesses will be effected in creating a new regional shopping centre off Fitzroy Street. 64 08 31

1964 09 30

Fitzroy Street shopping development to be linked to centre by free bus – feature – 64 09 30b

1965 01 30

Llewellyn-Davies invited to prepare plan for new shopping Centre, Fitzroy Street – 65 01 30a

1965 05 24

Co-op shoe repair premises, Fitzroy St damaged by fire – 65 05 24a

1965 07 30

Laurie & McConnal modernising the whole of their shop frontage in Fitzroy Street; new display windows will replace the arcade-type ones there since 19th century; "faith in City Road as new shopping centre $-65\ 07\ 30a$

1965 10 08

Frederick Morleys working man's stores Hobson St, Bridge St, Fitzroy St – photos – 65 10 08c

1966 08 23

Fitzroy Street sub-post office moved to Co-op in Burleigh Street, petition in protest – 66 08 23a

1966 10 07

Burleigh/Fitzroy Street favoured for shopping redevelopment in preference to Lion Yard – 66 10 07

1966 10 31

Louis Sylvester has been making ice cream for 60 years; used to have barrows in Fitzroy Street – profile – 66 10 31

1966 11 23

If Fitzroy St area developed as shopping centre CCAT students will have nowhere to park their cars – 66 11 23

1966 12 09

Plan to create regional shopping centre in Fitzroy Street and develop Lion Yard primarily as civic centre approved by City Council – 66 12 09a

1967 05 31

Fitzroy Street 'Corner Shop' demolition – photo – 67 05 31

1967 07 05

Fitzroy Street neglected area – photo – 67 07 05c

1968 03 26

Fitzroy Street – Burleigh St residents fear city council intend to demolish good houses under slumclearance scheme – 68 03 26

1969 02 21

Fitzroy Street redevelopment – architect's impression – 69 02 21, 21a

1969 07 17

George Moons shop, Fitzroy Street recalled – 69 07 17

1971 04 28

Fitzroy Street shopping report published – feature – 71 04 28

1971 05 05

Gas works retort house landmarks to disappear; put up 15 years ago; five-storey warehouse in Fitzroy Street also to be demolished $-71\ 05\ 05$

1971 06 28

Fitzroy Street, Burleigh Street shopping - photos - 71 06 28 & a

1972 03 20

Most of the people who will be displaced by the Burleigh Street-Fitzroy Street redevelopment (Cambridge) want to be rehoused in the same area according to a report. Counc. Christopher Bradford claimed that the land was bought by the city council for "chickenfeed" ten years ago and is now worth £65,000. The council paid only £200 to £300 development value for some of the houses and perhaps £2,000 for some of the others

1972 07 26

A total of 160 houses in the Burleigh street – Fitzroy street area of Cambridge will have to be demolished to make way for the city council's shopping redevelopment scheme. At present only 34 of the houses are unoccupied. The city council are prepared to buy the houses at full market value if the owners cannot find other buyers. Some of the houses have already been classed as slums and earmarked for demolition. A number have in fact already been closed, such as in parts of James Street

or demolished, as at Adam and Eve Street. A year ago the city council gave details of a large area outside the Burleigh Street - Fitzroy Street complex which they said would not be required for demolition. This gave the house owners the go-ahead to apply for grants of up to £1,000 to improve their homes

1972 11 21

The Cambridge city council's planning consultants who are designing the redevelopment plans for the Burleigh Street- Fitzroy Street have suggested the building of a departmental store East of Napier Street. Consultants feel that the introduction of shopping uses at this point would improve the whole project in addition to saving housing land to the North of Maids Causeway and James Street. They have also proposed that the pedestrian way along Fitzroy Street should be graded down and Napier Street itself raised over the pedestrian way. This appears to be the best way of separating traffic and pedestrians

1972 12 07

A large out-of-town shopping complex covering about 10 acres is being planned for Newmarket Road, just outside the Cambridge boundary. But Cambridge planning committee decided to resist the project. Fears were expressed about the effect the shopping centre would have for the city council's plans for redeveloping the Burleigh Street - Fitzroy street area. Marshalls of Cambridge (Engineering) made an application to develop the shopping complex, together with car parking and garages on a site immediately to the East of their vehicular workshops off Newmarket Road. The site faces Cambridge airport

1973 02 16

Mr Jeremy Thorpe, the Liberal leader, visited residents in the Burleigh-Fitzroy Street area of Cambridge, whose homes are endangered by the proposed shopping development which is at present the subject of an inquiry. Amongst the people he met was Mrs Lavinia Hawes, who moved to her James Street home six months ago and said that it suited her family perfectly. She would be giving evidence at the inquiry. After a visit to the new Cambridge volunteer bureau in Fitzroy Street, Mr Thorpe left to see Bar Hill

1973 04 26

The scheme to build a hypermarket for Tesco on the outskirts of Cambridge has been rejected by the city council. The scheme was put forward on behalf of Tesco by Stokes of Cambridge Ltd. They asked permission to build a 100,000 square foot hypermarket with a car park for 900 cars on land off Milton Road next to the railway line. The store would have been one of the largest in Cambridge. In turning it down the planning committee said it was outside the area allocated for development, would encourage extra traffic on a fast trunk route and was against the shopping policy for Cambridge in which large scale development is aimed at the Fitzroy Street - Burleigh Street area

1973 08 31

The £20m redevelopment scheme for the Fitzroy Street - Burleigh Street area of Cambridge may go ahead with only minor modifications, following the result of a 13-day public inquiry earlier this year. Several schemes for the area have been considered and rejected over the past 10 years, but the present plans, designed by international architects Piano & Rogers were adopted by the city and county councils last year

1973 09 21

Like some great suicidal spider Cambridge will have eaten its heart out by the turn of the century. Such is the dramatic prophecy of Professor John Parry Lewis who has been making a complete study of its future. Specifically he is saying is that if Cambridge proceeds with the scheme to build a twin shopping centre in the Fitzroy Street - Burleigh street area it will be signing the death knell of the present Market Square area. He concludes that a new focus for commercial activity must be developed on the edge of the city either in the Trumpington area or to the east near Marshall's airport. This cannot be done if the Fitzroy-Burleigh scheme proceeds, as the indications now are that it will

1974 10 29

The Parry Lewis super plan for the future of Cambridge, which took three years to prepare at a cost of £20,000, has been rejected by all the senior city and county planning officers. The plans main suggestions were for the immediate scrapping of the scheme for extensive development in the Burleigh Street – Fitzroy street area and the building of a second shopping centre in the Trumpington area. Chairman of the County Planning committee, Counc. Tony Cornell, said: "The technical boys took a look at Parry Lewis and they have not liked what they have seen"

1974 11 06

New plans for reshaping Cambridge's Burleigh St – Fitzroy St shopping area are being unveiled at a private meeting tonight. Although the project provides for more than 80 shops, including two major departmental stores, it is on a smaller commercial scale than the plans put forward three years ago. The project includes a new underground country bus station; placing much of Napier street underground to avoid disruption to people living nearby, a series of underground service roads to allow pedestrians traffic free access to the main shopping area, and the creation of landscaped parks. It provides for a new store for the John Lewis organisation and another for Laurie & McConnal

1974 11 08

By Cambridge planning standards, the argument over how the Burleigh St – Fitzroy St area should be redeveloped is a relative newcomer to a list of current city controversies. It has been raging for only 15 years. Which means that at least another 10 years of inactivity are necessary before the Lion Yard redevelopment record is reached. Cambridge city council has announced its intention of making a decision on the future of the area by the end of the year. But even if this happens it will not be the end of the story by a long way. There will be inevitable objections and the problem of raising money must remain a formidable obstacle in these economic times.

1974 12 31

The controversial multi-million pound redevelopment proposals for Cambridge's Burleigh Street — Fitzroy street area may be scrapped and traders and residents encouraged to rebuild as they wish. This is just what the majority of them have been advocating for most of the 15 years over which the controversy surrounding plans for the revitalisation of the area has raged. Leading members of the City council's controlling Labour Group are now trying to whip up general support behind the scenes for the new thinking. Moves come on the eve of the Government's expected announcement that after a two-year delay official approval is on the way to the area to be declared as suitable for comprehensive redevelopment

1975 02 07

The Government has decided after two years deliberation that the Burleigh Street – Fitzroy street area of Cambridge is suitable for redevelopment. This now lays the responsibility for action squarely on the city council who are likely to decide within two months whether to drop the much-criticised official development plan and go ahead with something less contentious. The plan has been unanimously rejected by the area's residents and shopkeepers.

1975 06 23

Shoppers in Fitzroy Street, Cambridge, were astonished to hear the strains of a brass band drifting down to them apparently right out of the sky. But the band was real enough. Perched in the little bandstand on the top of Laurie & McConnal's store the player jogged memories back 40 years or more to the time when such entertainment was a regular event for Saturday shoppers. The revival was the idea of Kite Community Action. Eight members of a local jazz group agreed to revive the past and play again. Whether the Saturday morning continues is up to the players. The store would be very happy to have them play anytime

1975 11 28

Cambridge City Council has brought the Rumble-Tum Restaurant at Burleigh Street and two private houses at Fitzroy Street. All are in the centre of the area, known as the Kite, which the council

proposes to redevelop comprehensively in the near future. The individual purchase prices are not being disclosed. The Burleigh Street and Fitzroy Street properties will show an estimate future profit for the council of £1.137 a year from rents

1976 02 25

When Texas open the door of their new super-store at Coldham's Lane on Saturday, Cambridge will have the largest Do-It-Yourself centre in East Anglia. Spurred on by the success of their year-old store which took over from Peaks Furnishers in Fitzroy Street, Texas are sure that Cambridge shoppers will make extensive use of the new premises, which are packed with all kinds of goods for the handyman.

1976 03 11

A new store, the Talk of the Town, is to open in Fitzroy Street, Cambridge in the building formerly occupied by Peaks Furnishers. The store is divided into individual sections, some let to local traders & some rented to national companies. An Elizabethan Tea Room complete with period furniture and fittings and a wedding dress section are on the top floor. The store has special design features such as log cabins for changing rooms in the fashion section and thatched roofing for the farm produce section

1976 04 17

The future redevelopment of the Burleigh Street - Fitzroy Street area of Cambridge is back in the melting pot following the decision of the outgoing city council to throw out the massive £30 million scheme proposed by a London development company for the Kite area. The rejection of the scheme, which would have brought a greatly-increased number of shops in to the area, together with car parks, a new road and an underground country bus station, was an easy matter for the city council. But it was far less easy for them to decide how to go about working out alternatives.

1976 08 02

An experimental free bus service for the Fitzroy Street area of Cambridge commenced at the weekend, providing the public with the first buses in the area for almost three years. 67 people made use of the first bus run at 10am on Saturday. The owner of the Talk of the Town shopping arcade, Mr Carl Owen, has hired one bus from the Eastern Counties Bus Company at a cost of £30 per day. He said he will hire more for a four-week period to prove the company were wrong to stop the service.

1977 04 20

A multi-million pound deal for the rebuilding of large parts of the Burleigh Street – Fitzroy Street area of Cambridge (The Kite) which would involve a handsome handout to the ratepayers is being negotiated between the City council and two internationally known development companies. Under the deal the redevelopment could be carried out without any cost to the ratepayers. The council would hand some of its land holdings – much now derelict – to the developers on a long lease. In return they would build large car parks for the council, re-grass the New Square car park and erect a number of shops, at least one of them a department store. And at the end of the development period the company would make either a substantial lump sum payment to the council or give it a large cut of the rents collected.

1977 10 04

The Cambridge department store Laurie and McConnal in Fitzroy Street is to close in December. Indecision over plans for the Kite area redevelopment is the reason, said Mr Anthony Frais. "We have tried everything we know to get something moving in the Kite, and while the council is now at last seeing sense we cannot afford to wait the two years before anything actually happens. As a small family company are paying penal rates." The business was established nearly 100 years ago.

1978 01 19

Laurie & McConnal's department store in Fitzroy Street, Cambridge, opened its doors for the last time as the auctioneers moved in, just over a month after closing. Between 200-300 people milled around the five floors as the left-overs of almost 100 years of trading went under the hammer. Most of

the faces were strangers, but a few of the old employees called in just to pay their respects. The sale will strip the building down to its last box of light bulbs – even part of a tin of toilet soap was in the catalogue. According the agents the building itself has attracted a few offers around the asking price of £250,000, but no-one has signed anything yet.

1978 03 07

Residents are occupying a deserted house in Fitzroy Street, Cambridge, after learning that the city council is about to demolish three other "unsafe" houses in the Kite area. Officers offered to re-assess the situation if the protesters paid them £340 – the cost of making the buildings safe. The Kite group stayed up collecting the money, only to be told the council would not accept it after all. The action is in spite of an assurance that demolition would only take place once the redevelopment scheme had been approved. The protesters are deeply disturbed that private citizens have to pay for council work in order to avoid the premature demolition of sound properties in the Kite.

1978 04 06

Quietly and without fuss our daily bread got dearer this week, with the news that the big three bakeries were adding 2p to the cost of a "standard" sliced and wrapped loaf, bringing the cost up to 28½ p. In Cambridge the price of farmhouse loaves is left to the baker. Bridgeman Bros of Norfolk Street charge 30½ p for a very crusty, tasty and attractive loaf; Tylers of Mill Road charge 30p, & E.J. How and Godfreys of Regent Street 29p. The most expensive are Dixon's of Fitzroy Street & Maskell's of Victoria Road who charge 31p for a pale golden, high, crusty, loaf.

1978 09 01

The Government has stopped Cambridge City Council's plan to rebuild the Kite area. They have refused to allow them to borrow the £2.3 million needed to buy the land for shopping development which means the 20-year saga of decay will continue indefinitely. The council's Conservative leader claimed it was a political decision, probably part of a General Election run-up. M.P. Robert Rhodes James said the blight in the Fitzroy Street area would be perpetuated and the general economic and physical decline of the area would continue remorselessly. But organisations which have been fighting the plans are delighted.

1978 11 10

Wilder Pinney, a dental repair man of Fitzroy Street, Cambridge told the News: "Some dentures I have to handle are horrible – all slimy and mucky. The smokers' are the worst, covered in tar they are. Black. You have to clean them before you can start work on them. People break their dentures in all sorts of ways. With schoolboys it's usually because they've been keeping them in their pockets. People are terribly embarrassed without their teeth. Some daren't leave the shop but sit hiding behind a magazine, others walk about with a hanky over their faces. Especially the ladies."

1979 03 29

Cambridge comes out poorly in the new 'Good Food Guide'; two entries are dropped leaving the city with just one restaurant, the 'unusually suave' Peking Chinese Restaurant in Burleigh Street, and one pub, the Fort St George. Out go the Strudel's Restaurant in Fitzroy Street and the Golden Palace Chinese restaurant in Ely together with the Eagle in Bene't Street and the Plough at Coton. Old favourites which retain their rating include the Old Fire Engine House at Ely, the Old Bridge Hotel Huntingdon and the Hotel de la Poste, Swavesey. The Pink Geranium at Melbourn gets the humbler 'Pass' rating.

1979 06 02

The £10 million Kite area shopping and parking scheme scheduled for opening in 1982 may be scrapped if opposition against it throughout Cambridge is strong enough. An official of Grosvenor Estates, the development company, said "If the people of Cambridge do not want our product we shall not give it to them". But the present indications are that the public does want the Burleigh Street – Fitzroy Street area to be redeveloped as quickly as possible, despite the protests being voiced by

pressure groups. The Kite Co-ordinating Council say the plans are 'hopelessly inappropriate' and it is a very cheap scheme: Cambridge deserves something much better than this.

1979 09 03

Cambridge's newest bookshop has opened in Fitzroy Street, run by a six-member collective, two of whom are squatting on the premises. Grapevine Books is a non-profitmaking venture in the former Vacuum Cleaner Centre owned by the City Council. They are trying to provide an outlet for environment and other groups such as Gingerbread & Friends of the Earth who have difficulty in distributing their publications.

1980 02 08

Nearly 50 squatters crammed into a tiny room in a derelict house at Fitzroy Street, Cambridge, to stop council workmen from demolishing the building. City councillors were on the scene of the biggest confrontation between squatters and squads of police who failed to persuade them to move. Both sides are preparing for a long-drawn out confrontation. The workmen intended to demolish a whole row of property between Christchurch Street and Napier Street to make way for the first phase of the controversial Kite shopping and parking scheme. Councillors opposing the demolition are trying to see what action can be taken to halt the work. 80 02 08

1980 03 14

Waffles' waffles have been selling like hot cakes in Cambridge for seven years. Now the small Kite café has been mentioned in the Egon Ronay guide 'Just A Bite'. "Queues of hungry students form outside the door every evening at this most welcoming of little cafes", it writes. But Waffles' days at its present address are numbered because the little shop on the corner of Gold Street and Fitzroy Street is marked for demolition as part of the Kite redevelopment programme. Set in a devastated urban wasteland of rubble and decaying brick the café with its steamy windows, Edwardian interior and babbling conversation provides a friendly island of humanity. 80 03 14d

1981 05 27

A Cambridge consortium which owns a shop in the centre of the planned £15 million Kite rebuilding scheme is steadfastly refusing to sell to make way for the giant new redevelopment. No.56 Fitzroy Street was bought in a bid to stop the scheme and their leader, a Cambridge don, says: "Under no circumstances are we going to budge – not even if they offered us £5 million. They can build all around us if they like – I am looking forward to our little shop becoming part of the shopping precinct with a large glass dome over the roof". 81 05 27

1981 06 01

Bitter personal arguments, the sound of falling masonry and a series of costly court actions have punctuated the 30-year-Kite saga. In 1950, the Holford Report suggested that the city's historic centre could not meet the shopping needs of future generations. "We regard Fitzroy Street as a valuable relief for pressure on the older centre", it said. Now with the news that Debenhams is to move into the new development and that work is due to start this summer, the saga may be nearing its end. 81 06 01

1981 07 11

Another old Cambridge landmark – the former Little Kettle premises in Fitzroy Street – disappeared when it was demolished as part of the Kite re-development programme. Over the years the premises had various uses, but they are best remembered as the general hardware shop which had a small kettle hanging outside. 81 07 11

1981 07 28

The former Laurie and McConnal store and a number of small adjoining shops in Fitzroy Street have been sold to Grosvenor Estates, who are redeveloping the Kite. It was one of the city's largest and longest-established department stores but has been empty since the firm closed down at the end of 1977. Now it will be refurbished and brought back into retail use. 81 07 28 1981 08 03

The saga of property dealing and controversy in the Kite redevelopment area of Cambridge has come to an end. The last remaining privately-owned shop at 56 Fitzroy Street has been sold to the city council and its partner, Grosvenor Estates for a price of around £30,000. This has given the owners, a consortium of university dons, a £5,000 profit which will be distributed to two charities. As part of the deal a number of small traders will be allowed to stay in their shops for up to three months. 81 08 03c

1981 08 04

Sir – as squatters in the old 'Strudels' building in Fitzroy Street we had come to an amicable arrangement with the council to move out to make way for the Kite redevelopment. We spent the night packing but were aroused by the front door being broken down at 8 am, other demolition men began smashing the plate-glass windows of the shop adjacent scattering glass over the road where our removal vehicles needed to park. We were lucky no serious damage was done to our possessions – H. Williams & others, 81 08 04

1981 09 08

Amid much music and good cheer, the Ancient Druids closed – the last of nine pubs in Fitzroy Street. Soon the 200-year-old rafters will collapse under the developer's sledge-hammers to make way for the multi-million pound Kite shopping development. But last night they rang to the rollicking rhythm of Irish ceilidh music from Ted Stacey's melodeon, accompanied by guitars, penny whistles, banjo and drums. The wake ended when it ran out of beer. The brewers, Charles Wells, are building another when the development is completed. 81 09 08

1981 11 13

Skirting the roadworks and dodging the demolition rubble, the visitor finds the Kite area of Cambridge hardly the easiest or most picturesque place to shop. Almost one side of Fitzroy Street is empty. The top end, which once included a Post Office, sweet shop, denture repairer and café called the Toby Jug, has been flattened. The Co-op department store in Burleigh Street have axed the traditional ceremonial arrival of Father Christmas as it would aggravate traffic problems. Add the lack of parking space and it is not surprising that traders fear for their Christmas profits. 81 11 13a

1982 08 24

W. Thompson and Son, the Fitzroy Street furniture firm, is closing after 150 years' trading in Cambridge. It started as a cabinet makers in Willow Place in 1832 and a fully-fledged furniture makers and sellers had been established by 1881. They had an undertakers' business for years, as well as selling china wholesale. But Peter Thompson says their style of business was becoming outdated: customers were now more conscious of price than quality with big warehouses changing the way furniture is sold. 82 08 24

1983 08 04

Seventeen flats and maisonettes being built as part of the Grafton Centre are now on the market. The flats in Fitzroy Street have a bedroom, living room, kitchen, bathroom & private rooftop terraced areas and sell for £29,500. The maisonettes are on two floors and have two bedrooms, they sell for £42,000. The scheme also includes 22 one-bedroomed flats in Christchurch Street which will be available on a share-ownership basis through the King Street Housing Society. Most have been allocated already. $83\ 08\ 04\ p12$

1984 01 04

Grosvenor Estates, landlords of the Grafton Centre are turning away potential tenants for the remaining shops. At present seven of the major units are unlet plus two smaller ones, with another six in the smaller Eden Hall and four in Fitzroy Street. Very few new traders have appeared since the summer and a number are still waiting to open, including Gerrards the greengrocers, Studio (Harry Fenton) menswear, Zales jewellers and Our Price records. But Grosvenor say they are doing better than they anticipated. 84 01 04

1984 05 14

Work on rebuilding the Cambridge Co-op store in Burleigh Street has reached the half-way mark. It will transform the historic building, bringing in new kinds of goods, a hairdressing salon and a coffee shop. For the first time it will have departments for self-assembly furniture and lighting as well as counters for the Burleigh Street post office and the Co-op Bank. A three-storey atrium at the Fitzroy Street end of the building will provide an airy display centre for shoes and furniture. 84 05 14 p5

1985 04 11

Choppen's links with Saffron Walden go back to the 19th century when the family moved their engineering business to the town from Great Chesterford. John Choppen, the founder, was also a local fireman and drove the horse-drawn fire engine. His son Frank, under whose control the business prospered, died in 1962. They established a branch in Fitzroy Street Cambridge in 1964 with a purpose-built garden machinery centre in Barnwell road opening in 1980. Now expansion continues with a new headquarters with offices, workshops and showrooms in Thaxted Road, Walden. 85 04 11

1985 08 30

Now that the dust has settled after the upheaval of building the Grafton Centre, Burleigh Street and Fitzroy Street have emerged as pleasant shopping promenades. Very few shops remain unlet with Andy's Records and Lancashire Mills about to open. Fitzroy Street will become more interesting in October when Habitat finally open at the old Laurie & McConnell shop while Burleigh Street will get a similar boost when the House of Holland opens in the old Marcade centre. 85 08 30

1985 10 23

Eight years after Laurie's doors closed forever, the tiers of galleries round the central well which gave the old store such a distinctive character will be alive with shoppers once again. On the official opening a band will once again occupy the bandstand on top of the building in Fitzroy Street. Traders are hoping that the arrival of Habitat will bring an influx of new shoppers to boost the whole area. Sofas are their best-selling furniture line in a range which includes lighting, self-assembly kitchens and fabrics. 85 10 23

1985 12 02

A plan devised by Grosvenor Estates could add a third to the size of the Grafton Centre. The extension would be built around a central mall at right angles to the present one using the site of the present bus interchange and the land now occupied by the yard of Coulsons, the building contractors. It would have a two-storey roof park for 350 cars with a number reserved for shop staff. Coupled with the opening of Habitat in Fitzroy Street it would strengthen the appeal of the area against that of Cambridge's traditional city centre. 85 12 02a

1986 08 13

Big Mac fans supporters lost the beef-burgers battle. Despite a petition signed by 30,000 hamburger fans an Inspector has rejected plans for a fast-food bar in Fitzroy Street saying it would cause a public nuisance and severe litter problems. Residents in New Square are delighted. But city planners say that they'd be happy to consider another application from McDonalds for a more suitable site 86 08 13

1986 09 08

The Ancient Druids closed down amid much music and good cheer at a wake featuring Irish ceilidh music from Tom Stacey's melodeon. Soon the 200-year-old rafters will collapse under the developers' sledge-hammers to make way for the Kite shopping development. It is the last of the nine pubs in Fitzroy Street – the others were the Cherry Tree, Danish Flag, Fitzroy Arms, Duke of Wellington, Harp, Queen's Arms, Golden Cross and Old English Gentleman. The brewers, Charles Wells, are building a new pub when the development is complete. 86 09 08